



Natural Resources Conservation Service

CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

FENCE

CODE 382

(ft)

DEFINITION

A constructed barrier to animals or people.

PURPOSE

Use practice to accomplish the following purpose:

- Provide a means to control the movement of animals, people and vehicles to accomplish conservation objectives.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

Apply practice on any area where management of animal or human movement is needed.

CRITERIA

General Criteria Applicable to All Purposes

Plan, design, and construct this practice to comply with all Federal, State, and local regulations. The landowner must obtain all necessary permissions from regulatory agencies, or document that no permits are required. The landowner and/or contractor is responsible for locating all buried utilities in the project area, including drainage tile and other structural measures.

Ensure all fencing materials installed are durable and of high quality, and the type and design of the fence installed meets the management objectives and site challenges. Use permanent, portable, or temporary fences based on management objectives.

Position fences to facilitate changes in management strategies or access requirements. The fence design and installation shall include height, size, spacing, type of materials, and location of features such as gates and cattle guards.

The fence design and materials shall have a life expectancy appropriate for the management system and resource objectives. The durability of materials in the design and location of fences based on topography, environment, purpose, and management objectives. Specialized bracing, designs, and materials may be necessary to cross features such as gullies, canyons, and streams.

Design, locate, and install fences to minimize impact to local wildlife as appropriate.

Provide for proper disposal of materials when fence construction requires the removal of existing fencing materials to prevent harm to animals, people, or equipment.

CONSIDERATIONS

Consider soils properties, soil moisture conditions, and erosion concerns.

NRCS reviews and periodically updates conservation practice standards. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact your Natural Resources Conservation Service State office or visit the Field Office Technical Guide online by going to the NRCS website at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/> and type FOTG in the search field.

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Consider livestock management and adaptive grazing strategies, trailing, access to water facilities, wildlife deterrence or passage.

Consider animal and human safety concerns by enhancing visibility of fences through design materials, fence markers, signage or fladry systems (line of rope mounted along the top of a fence, from which are suspended strips of fabric or colored flags that will flap in a breeze)

Consider using natural barriers where appropriate and design and locate fences to ease access for construction, maintenance, and landscape aesthetics.

Establish, cleared rights-of-way to facilitate fence construction and maintenance where applicable. Avoid clearing of vegetation during the nesting and brood rearing seasons for migratory and ground nesting birds.

Provide for proper disposal of materials when fence construction requires the removal of existing fencing materials to prevent harm to animals, people, or equipment.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Prepare plans and specifications that describe the requirements for applying the practice according to the requirements of this standard. As a minimum, include the following items in the plans and specifications:

- Plan view or map showing layout of fence and location of gates.
- Details for fence installation showing post spacing, bracing, and gate installation.
- Material quantities and requirements.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Regular inspection of fences is a part of an ongoing maintenance program ensuring proper function of the fence.

As a minimum, include the following items in the operation and maintenance plan

- Conducting inspections of fences after storms and other disturbance events.
- Maintenance activities include but are not limited to—
 - Repair or replacement of loose or broken material, gates, and other forms of ingress/egress.
 - Removal of trees/limbs.
 - Repair or replacement of water gaps as necessary.
 - Repair of eroded areas as necessary.
 - Repair or replacement of markers or other safety and control features as required.
 - Maintain fladry or signage as necessary.

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